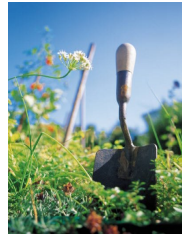




DIRTY DIGS



Autauga County Master Gardeners Association

November 2014

ENTERTAIN, EDUCATE, ELEVATE

Next Meeting
November 13,
2014

Meeting Location:

First Baptist

@6:00 PM

Guest Article: Submitted by Anthony Yarbrough



Harvest for Health

When I first heard about Harvest for health I thought, here's another program that I don't have time for. It seems that all of us are too busy to take on new tasks. Well, it has been said that if you want something done, find the busiest person to do it. So when Mallory Kelley contacted me about being a volunteer, she explained that I would have some benefits from the program. So with much gnawing and gnashing of teeth and soul searching, I reluctantly agreed to help.

First let me share what this program is about. The University of Alabama Birmingham (UAB) medical school personnel came up with an idea to use gardening as a tool to improve the quality of life for cancer survivors. However, since UAB had little expertise in gardening, they enlisted Master Gardeners through the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) to help implement the harvest for Help Program.

UAB hand picked the cancer survivors for the program through an intensive interview which involved the testing of the mobility of each person. Each survivor chosen was assigned to a Master Gardener as a mentor. The mentor's job was to help the survivor set up a garden (raised bed or earth box), and contact them twice each month. UAB provided all the materials needed

UAB chose Jesse Reynolds, a wonderful little man for me to mentor. I later found out that Jesse prefers to be called Preston.

Preston and I had a few challenges in the beginning to get set up. He had to get limbs cut down to provide more sun to his garden. The soil was delivered in bulk and there was no way for the truck to get to Preston's back yard. It was dumped in the front yard. My survivor and I used a wheel barrow to haul one yard of soil to his raised bed.

The next week we set out cabbage, kale, and collard plants.



I Can't wait to go back in a few weeks and see how his garden has progressed. As a cancer survivor, Preston specifically wanted to grow kale because it was good to fight all types of cancer.

A big benefit to me was getting to sit on Preston's front porch and sharing many life experiences. One that I found quite interesting was that Preston walked on the University of Alabama Football team under Coach Bear Bryant. Bear wouldn't play Preston because he didn't believe in playing married players.

We are already starting to plan on a spring garden. Preston already has some seeds to plant soon as the next planting season begins. Who knows maybe another raised bed is in his future.

Preston brought a tear to my eye the last time that I visited him. We discussed some of the benefits that this program was designed to bring to people like him. He stated, "you know, I have a lot more flexibility since I started this garden, especially in my hands. I am truly blessed to know Preston."

What's Bugging You?



Do You know the name of this critter? Is it beneficial
or
destructive or both?

Answer and information can be found on Page 5

November 2014

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1
2	3 <i>Governor's Man- sion 8-11</i>	4 <i>Demo Garden 8:00 AM</i>	5 <i>Intern Class Landscape de- sign and Annuals and Perennials</i>	6 <i>Prattvillage 7:30 AM</i>	7  <i>Webinar-IPM Honey Bees-gone ACMGA Bd Meet</i>	8
9	10 <i>Governor's Man- sion 8-11</i>	11  <i>Veterans Day Demo Garden</i>	12 <i>Intern Class Plant Diseases and Composting</i>	13 <i>ACMGA meeting 6PM FBC Prattvillage 7:30 AM</i>	14	15
16	17 <i>Governor's Man- sion 8-11</i>	18 <i>Demo Garden 8:00 AM</i>	19 <i>Intern Class Fruit Culture and Wrap Up</i>	20 <i>Prattvillage 7:30 AM</i>	21	22
23	24 <i>Governor's Man- sion 8-11</i>	25 <i>Demo Garden 8:00 AM</i>	26	27  <i>Thanksgiving</i>	28	29  <i>Au Vs Bama</i>
30						

December 2014

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	<p>1</p> <p><i>Governor's Mansion 8-11</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p><i>Demo Garden 8:00 AM</i></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p><i>Prattvillage 7:30 AM</i></p>	<p>5</p> <p><i>ACMGA bd meet</i></p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p><i>Governor's Mansion 8-11</i></p>	<p>9</p> <p><i>Demo Garden 8:00 AM</i></p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 <i>Christmas Luncheon</i></p> 	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p><i>Governor's Mansion 8-11</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p><i>Demo Garden 8:00 AM</i></p>	<p>17 <i>Happy Hanukkah</i></p> 	<p>18</p> <p><i>Prattvillage 7:30 AM</i></p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 <i>Winter Begins</i></p> 	<p>22</p> <p><i>Governor's Mansion 8-11</i></p>	<p>23</p> <p><i>Demo Garden 8:00 AM</i></p>	<p>24</p> 	<p>25</p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p><i>Governor's Mansion 8-11</i></p>	<p>30</p> <p><i>Demo Garden 8:00 AM</i></p>	<p>31</p> 			



By Mallory Kelley
Regional Extension Agent
Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests

Dangers of Moving Firewood

There are many invasive species of different kinds around us in Alabama whether we are talking about insects, animals, or plants. I had a family relative from the east coast who came to town recently who had never been this far south. They were talking about the beautiful countryside and this beautiful, lush “ivy look-alike” growing everywhere, all over the trees and covering the hillsides and they wanted to know what it was. It took me a second, but I soon realized they were talking about our beloved Kudzu!

Kudzu is probably the first plant that pops in your mind when I say invasive. Can you believe this plant was introduced to the South in the 1930-50’s as a good plant for helping reduce soil erosion? The legal definition of an invasive is, **“a species that is non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.”**

Invasive pests pose a major threat to Alabama’s natural ecosystems. “Whether they are plants, animals or insects the damage they cause can have significant impacts to the native flora and fauna. The challenges associated with invading insects are the lack of natural predators to control their populations. Additionally, their hosts or trees impacted have few natural defenses due to the pest not being a natural component of the ecosystem. This combination can result in large pest populations causing significant mortality of host species” said Beau Brodbeck, Forester and Regional Extension Agent, Alabama Extension.

All this talk leads me to an invasive insect that we all need to be aware of as we move into the fall. The Emerald ash borer (EAB) is already in Georgia and Tennessee, so it’s just a matter of time before it will be discovered in Alabama. The EAB is an exotic invasive from Asia that was discovered in Michigan in 2001 and has been recorded in 24 states and 2 Canadian provinces. According to Herms and McCullough, “Because ash is one of the most common tree genera in North America, the pest’s prolific nature and fatal impact on trees make it the most economically and ecologically costly forest insect to invade North America.” If there is good news... EAB feeds only on ash trees. The three North American species most vulnerable are the white, green and black.

The EAB adult females deposit their eggs on the bark of ash trees, usually high in the canopy of trees in the thin branches. When the larvae hatch, they bore into the tree and feed on the inner bark. The feeding disrupts the nutrition system of the tree and as more larvae infest the tree, this causes a slow death, usually 2-4 years from the time of infection. At the time you realize you have this insect in your forest, it will be too late for any measures of control.

Although EAB can fly, its flying radius is fairly minimal, but where our awareness of these insects comes into play is when we could be the ones transporting them.

The public can be a valuable asset in slowing the spread of EAB and preventing the pest from entering non-infested states. This time of year people are heading to the mountains to see the fall foliage and may pack firewood to take or purchase firewood upon arrival.

Check the map and know where the EAB has been found. If you are in an area that is noted as having EAB, **do not buy firewood or take firewood from that area to another.** If you do buy firewood, use it only in the county where you bought it. Ash firewood that has dried naturally can still harbor larvae.

Below is a link to view where the EAB has been identified: <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>

map.cfm#sthash.rjaJi95n.p1yI5LfJ.dpbs

According to Herms and McCullough, "Researchers have estimated that if EAB continues expanding at its current rate, it is likely to have an economic impact of \$12.5 billion by the year 2020." Researchers and regulators can do their part, but we also need you, the citizens.

For more information, go to <http://www.emeraldashborer.info>.

Source for information: Herms, D.A. and McCullough, D.G. (2014) Emerald ash borer invasion of North America: History, biology, ecology, impacts and management. *Annu. Rev. Entomol.* 59: 13-30. Doi: 10.1146/annurev-ento-011613-162051.

Beau Brodbeck, Regional Extension Agent, Forestry and Natural Resources, Alabama Extension.

Hummingbird Award for October



The Hummingbird Award for the month of October went to Nancy Waggoner. She has done an outstanding job writing about Autauga County Master Gardeners in the state newsletter, Garden Pathways. Nancy has made us proud. Let's give her a big hand.

Alabama Gardener's Calendar

November

Fruits and Nuts

- Select sites for plantings.
- Start mulching strawberries, blackberries, and grapes.

Shrubs

- Plant shrubs, trees, and vines.

Lawns

- Have you thought about having a green lawn this winter? It's time to overseed.
- Use proper herbicide to kill germinating winter weeds.

Roses

- Get rose planting underway.
- Use a soil test as a basis for fertilization.
 - Look for new varieties.

Annuals and Perennials

- Plant hardy annuals such as larkspur, poppies, pansies, anchusa, and candytuft.
- Get sweet peas into the ground.

Bulbs

- Continue spring bulb planting.
- Put lilies of the valley in a shady place.

Miscellaneous

- Plant screen plantings for privacy on the patio.

Vegetable Seed

- Plant cabbage and lettuce in the cold frame.



All Bugs Good and Bad

2014 Webinar Series

Please join us for this webinar series for information you can use about good and bad insects. **Webinars will be on the first Friday of each month at 2 p.m. Eastern.**

- February 7** If Flowers are Restaurants to Bees, Then What Are Bees to Flowers?
Dr. John Skinner
- March 7** Straight Talk About Termites
Dr. Xing Ping Hu
- April 4** Get Tick**Smart**: 10 Things to Know, 5 Things to Do
Dr. Thomas Mather
- May 2** Are Those Itsy Bitsy Spiders Good or Bad?
Dr. Nancy Hinkle
- June 6** Fire Ant Management
Elizabeth Brown
- August 1** Minimize Mosquito Problems
Molly Keck
- September 5** Kudzu Bug Takes Over the Southeastern U.S./Brown Marmorated Stinkbug—All Bad
Dr. Michael Toews/Dr. Tracy Leskey
- October 3** Alien Invasions, Zombies Under Foot, and Billions of Decapitated Fire Ants
Dr. Sanford Porter
- November 7** Where Have All the Honey Bees Gone? Hope for the Future
Dr. John Skinner



For more information on the series and how to connect to the webinars, visit: <http://www.extension.org/pages/70120>.



Brought to you by these eXtension Communities of Practice: Imported Fire Ants, Urban IPM, Bee Health, Invasive Species, & Gardens and Landscapes.



Citations for pictures: Jim Occi, BugPics, bugwood.org; Jerry A. Payne, USDA-ARS, bugwood.org; Nadeer Youssef, TN State Univ.; USDA ARS Photo Unit, USDA-ARS, bugwood.org; David Cappaert, Michigan State University, bugwood.org; Sturgis McKeever, Georgia Southern University, bugwood.org.

Pictures from October 9 monthly meeting at Don and Glenda Armstrong's residence.



Important Announcements

From Pam Olson: Here's your monthly reminder to bring items for the "Cultivating Our Community" project with you to the next meeting. Pam Olson usually collects them. If she's not at the meeting, Nancy Waggoner steps in. This is our sister project to the Prattville-Autauga Demonstration Garden. Produce from the garden supplies fresh vegetables to AICC, Autauga Interfaith Care Center – our county's food bank. But people who need a temporary helping hand have many needs in addition to food. Cleaning products, both personal and for the home, can take a big bite out of one's wallet yet are essential for one's dignity. We, as individual members, help supply the non-food items. AICC is in constant need of: **adult toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, dish detergent, laundry detergent, and household cleaners.** Smaller-sized store brand cleaning products are better because your dollars put products into more bags at the center. Sample sizes of any of the items are okay, too. Anything is appreciated! As with all our MG projects, participation is optional.

New Item Requested for "Cultivating Our Community" Project

We have a new item to add to the other six we regularly collect for AICC – **adult** toothbrushes. The center has finally run out of the generous supply donated by a local dentist. Thank you for your generosity. AICC is always grateful for our donations.

PALS Beautification Award

Anytime you see a yard that you would like to nominate for this award and do not have a nomination form, please get the information to me, Rose McCauley, by regular mail, email or drop it by my home. Include the following:

Your name and contact information

Category - Private House, Business, School, Government

Nominee's Name (if you have it)

Nominee's Address

Nominee's Phone Number (if you have it)

Directions

Reasons for Nomination

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Rose McCauley



Forget-me-nots

By Pam Olson

Does Working in Someone Else's Garden Count as Volunteer Time?

Well, it depends. I came across the following ACES guideline while I was writing last month's *Forget-me-nots* piece – "Labor in your garden or someone else's in preparation for a program is volunteer time." So, as I'm winding down this series covering tips and advice on reporting hours, I thought I'd try to anticipate questions this statement may generate and include information that hopefully answers them.

Regarding work done in preparation for a program – All hands-on work in preparation for a program qualifies as volunteer time, whether it's putting together a PowerPoint presentation, printing handouts, assembling a display, performing gardening activities of any kind in anybody's garden, or anything else directly involved in presenting a program. The volunteer category depends usually on the audience but sometimes on the subject covered, so refer to the online service report explanations of **Public education program**, **Support other ACES prog's**, **Youth program**, and **Manage/Teach/Assist Intern class**. Time spent researching the topic is handled differently because it accomplishes the same end result as attending an educational program, so it's reported as **CEU** (or **Intern certification** if you're not yet certified). This one's a "yes."

Regarding laboring in someone else's garden when it's not in preparation for a program – If we do someone else's gardening chores, it doesn't qualify as a volunteer activity. For example, tilling garden plots for all the neighbors or weeding a flower bed for a friend after surgery. This is usually when we find ourselves working in someone else's garden. It's praiseworthy, to be sure, but the time should not be recorded on our service reports. This one's a "no."

Regarding teaching a gardening skill to someone other than a Master Gardener by demonstrating it in our garden or hers – This one's a "yes" IF we're passing along something that's research-based. Then the time may be reported under **Home garden consult**. It could be anything from pruning techniques to how to "double dig" a garden plot. In this scenario, we aren't simply doing someone else's routine labor. The key word here is "teaching."

I hope this helps. As always, if you have questions or comments on anything related to reporting hours, please email or call me: polsonhome@charter.net, 361-7030.

Autauga County Master Gardeners Association
Membership Form

Annual County membership dues for 2014 are \$10. State dues, are \$10 and optional. State dues entitle you to State membership and **Garden Pathways** newsletter. You can also receive state awards such as, Reach for the Stars. Please complete this form and return it to our Treasurer, **NO LATER THAN**

OCT. 15th 2014.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ CELL _____

EMAIL _____ DOB _____

(Only give email address if you wish to receive info via email) mm/dd

COUNTY OF TRAINING _____ YEAR OF GRAD _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

	Local Dues	State Dues
___ Active Member Local & State (includes graduating interns)	\$10	\$10
___ Active Member Local Only (includes graduating interns)	\$10	\$0
___ Active Member w/ current State Lifetime	\$10	\$0
___ Active member w/ new State Lifetime	\$10	\$100 (One-time fee)
___ Yes, I am a dual member. County of primary membership _____		

Make check payable to ACMGA. Mail or give to:

Tina Reed
1936 Tara Dr.
Prattville, AL 36066

AUTAUGA COUNTY TREE NAMED CO-CHAMPION

The following story is reprinted with permission of Montgomery Advertiser Executive Editor Tom Clifford –

Alabama Forestry Commission Honors Southern Magnolia on Reuben Gardner's Property

Article by Marty Roney/Montgomery Advertiser

Photos by Lloyd Gallman/Montgomery Advertiser

PRATTVILLE -- Reuben Gardner had a champion on his property and didn't even know it.

The Prattville contractor owns land along Autauga Creek off Autauga County 4, and the tract is the home of the state's newest co-champion Southern magnolia. The Alabama Forestry Commission has made the designation official.

"It was discovered by others, but I think it's great," Gardner said Tuesday morning, looking up at the spreading crown. "I think it's really a miracle. It's a blessing really for Autauga County, the city of Prattville, to have a tree this size in our city."

Gardner said officials estimate the tree to be more than 150 years old. The champion tree program recognizes the largest specimen of a native or naturalized tree in the state, said Brian Hendricks, forest inventory and analysis coordinator for the Forestry Commission. This year, 11 trees were named champions. Overall, there are 147 champion trees scattered through 48 of the state's 67 counties.

Points are given for the circumference of the trunk, height and spread of canopy, with the deciding factors being size of trunk and height, he said.

And the Prattville specimen's numbers are impressive, with a trunk circumference of 159 inches, or more than 13 feet, and a height of 101 feet.

"The Prattville tree is actually the tallest Southern magnolia in the state," Hendricks said. "There are now three co-champion Southern magnolias, with all three of them being separated by less than five points. I don't mean to show my bias, but I think Mr. Gardner's tree is the prettiest of the three."

The other co-champion Southern magnolias are in Macon and Calhoun counties.

The Prattville magnolia towers over a brush-choked ridge. Dale Gandy, facilities division superintendent for the city, and Deven Peek, urban management superintendent, spotted the tree several weeks ago. Teresa Lee, Mayor Bill Gillespie Jr.'s executive assistant, nominated the tree for consideration.

"Teresa called and told me what they wanted to do, and I was all for it," Gardner said. "This old tree has been standing here for a long time. A lot of storms have passed here, and still she stands. It's inspiring when you think about it."

Hendricks said the tree is in good health.

"It's really in magnificent shape," he said.

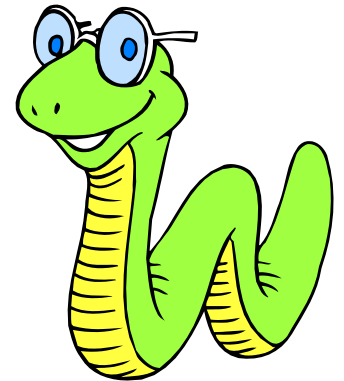
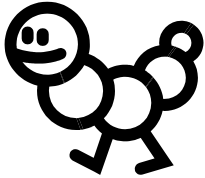
So what are Gardner's plans?

"Leave her alone and let her grow," he said. "There may come a time when we're all long gone, and she's still standing here, watching over Prattville."

Pictures of CO-Champion Magnolia Tree



On Thursday, October 23, Paula Seamon and Rose McCauley taught the CAMGA interns class in Wetumpka. Paula taught the class the basics of "Backyard Composting" and the benefits of recycling your yard and kitchen waste into "Black Gold". Rose taught the class the art of Vermicomposting or worm composting. She of course brought her working worms, to the delight of the intern class. Paula and Rose enjoyed meeting these future Master Gardeners and they look forward to teaching "Vermicomposting" and "Backyard Composting" to the ACMGA interns on November 12 in Autaugaville.



Now for a little heart to heart talk!

The nominating committee has been working hard to fill positions for the upcoming year. We have all positions filled except Vice President. This position will probably be the easiest to perform. The main responsibility of the VP is to get speakers for the meetings. Thinking Ahead, 80% of the speakers have already been assigned this year. Plus this position will have assistants to help. All of us on the board have already been over extended and can't fulfill this position. Please search your heart and step up and volunteer so we can complete the nomination process.

Thanks so much,

Anthony

Note, schedules in the calendar that involve working in the gardens are subject to change based on weather and garden down time. Please contact Carol Bonifay for the Demo Garden and Linda Parrish for the Prattvillage Garden.

Working at the Governor's Mansion

If you are looking for a rewarding gardening project, please consider joining us for workdays at the Governor's Mansion. We meet every Monday 8:00-11:00 a.m. during the summer months to beat the heat, and--with all the beautiful blooming plants--it is a lovely place to work. Add to that the pleasant company of your fellow laborers, and I believe you'll find it a truly enjoyable way to earn volunteer hours. Please call Jane McCarthy (334-221-9936) by noon the Friday prior to any workday to be put on the list for access to the grounds. Bring your favorite tools.

Future Events Schedule

November 13: ACMGA Meeting will be at First Baptist Church and the presentation will be on wine making by Bill Gilmore.

Christmas Luncheon on December 11, 2014 at Autaugaville Extension Center

Jim Scott Tour in May and Youngs Plant Farm tour in June

One last note. Due to time constraints, the deadline for submitting articles to the newsletter is now the 25th of the month. Thanks!



Anthony Yarbrough, Editor
Email: ayarb@knology.net